The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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Reaction Would Bring Law Makers Into Popular Contempt

Two rejections by the senate of a presidential nomination for attorney general is more far-reaching than the individuals involved.

Friends of the executive claim he has the right to name members of his cabinet, and that the nominee is competent. Defenders of the senate refer to the recent sugar trust connections of Mr. Warren. They also refer to that portion of the constitution which declares that the president "shall nominate and by and with the advice and consent of the senate shall appoint * * * * ."

If the constitution means anything, Warren opponents say, it means that the senate has a constitutional duty to perform, and that the members thereof must exercise their judgment, rather than the executive's.

The question is the age-long struggle between the executive and the law-making branch.

For this reason every friend of popular rule should be cautious in his judgments against the law-making branch, which is under fire by reaction not only in the United States, but throughout the world. In our own country, almost without exception, the influential press supports the executive and condemns the senate in the recent controversy.

Everywhere is heard the cry for a "strong man" as an executive. This is the kingly ideal, the "man on horseback," though the wish is befogged by alluring terms.

Since the world war reaction's policy is to bring the legislative branch into popular contempt.

In our country the claim is made that this is "a government by parties." The inference is that when a political party secures control it should be given a free hand, and then held accountable at the next election.

This theory will not stand analysis.

The Constitutional Fathers did not base this government on political parties. Nowhere in the records of the constitutional convention is there any reference to political parties.

On the contrary, when political parties began taking shape, Washington raised a warning cry on the evils that would result.

The present Teapot Dome situation is the best answer to the claim that a political party should have a free hand, and give account of its stewardship at the next election.

The people should keep a vigilant eye on the executive and the judiciary, regardless of individuals. The history of government is that these two branches ever strive to increase their power and subordinate the people's direct representatives, who are elected at short intervals.

Democracy sustains itself through a diffusion of power and an expanding popular intelligence.

Privilege sustains itself through a centralization of power and an insistent propaganda that the people will be protected and cared for.

The latter is the discredited theory of autocracy, garbed in new dress and modern phrases.

Let no believer in democracy make the mistake of discussing individuals in any contest between the executive and the law-making branch.

It is the old struggle. It will continue as long as the few would control and the many resist.

INJUNCTION IS UNFAIR IN LABOR DISPUTES

Springfield, Ill., March 21.—"The labor injunction gives the law making to a judge and deprives men of the right of trial by jury. The anti-injunction bill now before you is an effort to restore natural human rights that have been invaded by the courts," said Rev. J. W. R. Maguire, C. S. V., vice president of St. Viator college, Kankakee, Ill., speaking before the house judiciary committee of the state legislature.

The clergyman joined with officers of the Illinois state federation of labor in urging the passage of legislation that would curb injunction judges.

"Originally an injunction could be issued," he continued, "only in defense of property rights, in cases where no law furnished any remedy or protection, but our courts of equity have departed from this fundamental principle.

"When a citizen violates an injunction, he immediately becomes in contempt of court and subject to direct punishment by the court without trial by jury."

The bill declares that the right to organize into labor unions and associations for mutual aid is inalienable and no injunction can be issued to abridge it. Neither can free speech, press and assemblage be enjoined.

Labor is defined as an "attribute of individual life," and not a commodity or a piece of property. All cases arising from individual or collective labor contracts are definitely taken from the courts of equity, when injunctions are issued, and placed in the courts of law.

Another section of the bill forbids an injunction against men doing collectively or by agreement anything which if done individually is lawful. The bill specifically withdraws from the courts the power to enjoin strikes and peaceful picketing.

WAGES ARE REDUCED BY COMPANY "UNION"

Denver, March 21.—While organized labor battles against lower living standards, the Rockefeller company "union" pleads that wages be reduced. This policy permits the company to escape censure, and wages in the Walsen district have been cut 20 per cent by the Colorado Fuel and iron company.

The Colorado Labor Advocate, official paper of the Colorado state federation of labor, charges that these employees were intimidated by lay-off threats, and that they are helpless to resist because of their unorganized condition.

"Four years ago," the Advocate says, "the C. F. & I. asked the miners to accept a voluntary wage cut. The company passed 'petitions' through the mine camps. Some miners 'asked' a wage cut of one-third, and other miners were forced to 'ask' to have their living standards reduced.

"Where the men refused to 'ask' a wage cut the mines were closed down.

"So many miners left the state at that time the company was compelled to go before the state industrial commission — which always orders what the C. F. & I. wants—and asked to have the wages restored.

"This anti-labor trade union executives have known that the C. F. & I. was planning wage cuts. The old tricks were used. The mines have been closed. In some cases the rails have been taken out and the mines apparently abandoned. It is the old threat, 'Work at our rates or starve.'

"It is the 'representation plan.' It is 'industrial democracy.' It is company 'unionism.'

"And the miners are helpless."

Low Wages and Poor Housing Endanger Life In Los Angeles

Los Angeles, Cal., March 21.—Low wages and intolerable living conditions of 90,000 Mexicans jeopardize the life and progress of this city, according to a report by a labor council committee that acted in conjunction with other groups of citizens.

The investigation was instituted following the recent outbreak here of bubonic and pneumonic plagues.

The largest percentage of these Mexicans are employed by the Southern Pacific railroad, the street car company, the gas company and three industrial corporations. Wages range from $2.25 to $3.25 for an eight-hour day.

The trade union committee made this reference to living conditions:

"The municipal building and state housing ordinances, in almost every instance, are treated as a joke. There are many families living in shacks 10 or 12 feet square, built of rough lumber, in some cases merely with joists and rafters covered with second-hand corrugated iron. In these shacks live families of four and five members, in some cases sleeping on the floor, while bed space is rented to a boarder. Of course, no plumbing is provided in these shacks and the neighborhood plumbing is almost worse than useless. Rents, even for such quarters, are out of proportion to the earnings of the tenants."

The shacks are declared to be "unfit for human habitation and a barrier to the progress of life and character of those living in them."

The unionists' report includes a synopsis of views by County Health Officer Pomeroy, who has publicly declared that "there can be no final settlement of the Mexican housing problem without a settlement of the unemployment problem."

"Business men," Dr. Pomeroy said, "are all crying for cheap labor, and this cheap labor is brought in from Mexico. When it is once here the employing groups do not know how to use it. The agriculturists, in particular, have no program.

"This labor migrates to the Imperial valley and Bakersfield and then back. It drifts from handling the walnuts and oranges in the San Fernando valley to the Compton beet industry. And between these seasonal employments it is drawn back to the settlements remote from the labor markets where it is largely unemployed.

"The migrations are responsible for the importation of contagious diseases and increase the difficulties of maintaining proper sanitary conditions.

"This disorganized condition of the cheap labor market and its attendant unemployment creates a burden on the general taxpayer, who must extend relief through the county charities and health departments when in justice the burden should be borne by the employing groups responsible for the presence of cheap labor."

30,000 UNION GIRLS WIN UNUSUAL STRIKE

New York City, March 21.—Through one of the most unique strikes in history, 30,000 union girls compelled jobbers in the dress-making trade to live up to a contract they signed with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union.

The agreement was made last month, and provides that a specified price be placed upon every piece of work given out. This places each manufacturer upon the same labor cost basis and eliminates haggling over piece-work prices.

The agreement would stabilize labor costs and end the curse of haggling over piece-work," said International President Sigman. The jobbers accepted the agreement for a few weeks and then began ignoring the pledge. With the industry again threatened with turmoil, the strike was called.

The response to the strike call was unanimous. The workers reported at the shops, waiting for the employers to agree to the contract. The usual intimidations and police intimidations could not be resorted to by the employers as they did not dare to make public their position. With a 100 per cent solidarity of workers maintained in Logan and other anti-union counties of this state.

"Such authority," he said, "can be vested safely in but one agency, and that is government itself, and encroachments upon the authority of government I do not and will not approve."

Would Remove Tax On Buildings As Remedy For Housing Problem

New York, March 21.—The single tax theory—of exempting buildings and other improvements on land from taxation—is suggested by the state housing commission in a report on housing conditions in New York city.

The report declares that these conditions are steadily growing worse instead of better, and that the situation is beyond relief through private enterprise operating for profit.

Governor Smith transmitted the findings to the legislature, but will now before it amendments to the constitution which would permit the state or municipalities to advance funds for the construction of dwellings.

The housing commission stated that 85,000 new apartments have become available in New York city the past 12 months, but this renting space is made up largely of suites ranging from a monthly rental of $15 up per room. These apartments are beyond the means of most wage-earners, the class suffering most intensely from the stringency that exists.

"If houses wholly financed at 6 per cent can be built on land costing $100 per front foot to rent at about $9 a room per month," the commission said.

"If tax exemption were granted on the building, and money made available at 6 per cent, it would be possible to reduce this rent to $7.50 a room per month, if all wages were conserved to the tenant.

The commission has reached the conclusion that approximately 15 per cent of each month's rent goes for investment charges, 16 per cent for administration of mortgages, 10 per cent for taxes, and 19 per cent for maintenance.

The report quotes Tenement House Commissioner Frank Mann of New New York city as saying:

"For the average wage earner the supply of low and moderate rental apartments has not as yet been met. We must look for portions of this land for any relief in this respect."

Discussing New York city conditions, the report says:

"Rents have increased steadily in the past year, as shown by investigations of the commissioner's reports of the United States bureau of labor statistics and of the federal reserve bank."

OUTLAW "YELLOW DOG" IS UNIONISTS' DEMAND

Columbus, Ohio, March 21.—Ohio trade unionists are conducting an aggressive campaign in behalf of a bill before the state legislature that would outlaw the "yellow dog" contract.

Employers who favor the "yellow dog" take advantage of a worker's necessity and force him to agree not to join a labor union—to waive a lawful right—as the price for giving him employment.

The pending bill was drawn by Prof. Oliphant, for many years professor of law, Columbia university, and has been declared constitutional by two of the most noted lawyers in this state—Timothy S. Hogan, former state attorney general, and George B. Okey.

The bill declares that it is "contrary to public policy" to enforce the "yellow dog" contract.

Attorneys Hogan and Okey point out that the "yellow dog" is a direct warranted invasion of liberty" guaranteed by Section 1 of the Ohio bill of rights in the state constitution, which declares:

"All men are, by nature, free and independent, and have certain inherable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and labor, acquiring, possessing and protecting property and seeking and obtaining happiness and safety."

The attorneys also refer to the fourteenth amendment to the federal constitution, that no state shall make or "deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law."

At a joint meeting of the senate and house judiciary committees, President Frey and Secretary Donnelly of the Ohio state federation of labor, together with Attorney Hogan, urged passage of the bill. They were opposed by two representatives of employers' associations, who evaded a discussion of the bill but attacked trade unionism along lines invariably followed by spokesmen for anti-union employers.

NEW DEAL FOR LABOR BY GOVERNOR GORE

Charleston, W. Va., March 21.—Governor Gore, the state executive, has startled anti-union coal owners and other elements hostile to organized labor by inviting the organized workers to join with him and other citizens in discussing problems of interest to the commonwealth.

Never before has a governor of this state taken such action. In referring to the high ideals of West Virginia citizens, the governor paid a high tribute to organized labor during the war and expressed his confidence that labor will contribute the same service in solving the problems that have resulted from the war.

In his inaugural address the chief executive let it be known that he is opposed to the guard system and pri; other anti-union counties of this state.

SIGNS CHILD LABOR BILL

Austin, Texas, March 21.—Governor Miriam A. Ferguson has signed the new child labor bill, passed by the state legislature. The act provides that children under 15 years shall not work at any occupation except upon farms and messenger service in towns of less than 15,000 inhabitants. Children under 18 are prohibited from work in more hazardous occupations, in theaters and in immoral places. Provisions for enforcement by the state are granted by a county judge when the support by a child is necessary for the maintenance of the child's family.

This legislation followed the agitation for the legislature to pass the federal child labor amendment, which it rejected.

WANT PEOPLE TO GOVERN

Nashville, Tenn., March 21.—The movement to repeal the "iniquitous" public utilities law is spreading throughout the state. Under this statute corporations do not have to go to the legislature to secure higher rates and other concessions, and it is charged that they control the utilities commission. Every corporate influence is defending the law. The lobbyists of these companies have become so flagrant that the governor has denounced their activities.

BANK RECORD BARRED IN TEAPOT DOME CASE

Cheyenne, Wyo., March 21.—Federal Judge Kennedy decided in the Teapot Dome trial that Albert B. Fall can not be compelled to show his bank record. This is a victory for the government, as it expected to show by Fall's bank book that the former secretary of the interior received a bribe in the shape of $233,000 in Liberty bonds, passed to Fall, with Milton T. Everhart, his mistress and ranch partner, as the messenger.

WAGE CUTS FAIL

Boston, March 21.—"No economist has ever shown that a wage reduction does more than give temporary selfish advantage to any concern or community," says Editor Baine of the Shoe Workers' Journal.

"The history of our industry has shown the ruin of whole shoe centers that have attempted to build prosperity on the quicksand of wage reductions. We do not need to mention names. The matter is obvious to all well-posted shoe men.

"One of the destroying aftermaths of wage reduction is the inevitable increase in labor turnover. Migration of skilled workers from the industry results in a cost which few enterprises can endure and survive.

"It is a historical and economic fact that wage reduction, instead of making business, reduces and destroys business."

YEARLY FOOD COSTS UP

Washington, March 21.—For the year period February 15, 1924, to February 15, 1925, 18 of the 19 cities reporting to the United States bureau of labor statistics, showed higher prices in the cost of food.

In Birmingham the increase was 7 per cent; Mobile and Norfolk, 1 per cent; Kansas City, Scranton and Portland, Me., 4 per cent; Baltimore, Butte, Little Rock and Washington, D. C., 3 per cent; Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, New Haven, New York, Philadelphia and Charleston, S. C., 2 per cent; Providence, 1 per cent. Milwaukee reported a decrease of 1 per cent.

CIVIL SERVICE SHOWS WOMEN IN NEW JOBS

Washington, March 21.—Entry of women into new fields of work in recent years is reflected in the records of civil service employment, where they now hold many situations for which they were barred a generation in the past, said a statement by the civil service commission.

While until recent years "it was difficult to visualize a woman employee of the government in other than a clerical or stenographic position, an increasing number are now being employed in the fields of chemistry and other scientific work, in addition to teaching, nursing and social work," the statement said.

ORGANIZATION IS FIRST

Superior, Wis., March 21.—"Collective bargaining must eventually be recognized on a larger scale if we wish to have the greatest degree of industrial peace," said Henry Ohl, jr., president of the Wisconsin state federation of labor, in an address to local trade unionists.

"Collective bargaining involves a willingness of employes to deal with representatives of the workers, but this is impossible without organization. It is organized labor's mission to oppose arbitrary power. Among us and the world will only be as free as the workers make it."

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Jackson, Tenn., March 21.—Officers of the Tennessee state federation of labor have issued the call for the annual convention, which will convene in this city Monday, May 4.

FREEDOM SHOUTERS GAG PUBLIC SPEAKER

New York, March 21.—At a meeting in this city called in the interest of political prisoners throughout the world, communists showed their faith in free speech by booing one of the speakers off the platform.

Everything went along swimmingly as long as speakers discussed wicked capitalistic countries.

But when one of the speakers began talking of the political prisoners in Soviet Russia he didn't get to first base. Every believer in rule by the proletariat registered vehemently and angry protest.

The committee in charge of the meeting afterwards stated that they were advised in advance "that members of the Workers' party would be present in force to prevent just any reference to political prisoners in Russia."

"We are confronted," the committee said, "with the alternative of calling off the speakers to whom the communists objected or accept the interruptions and disorder they threatened. We preferred to stand by the speakers and carry it through. We did carry it through to the last speaker, and we got the facts across completely, covering Russia as well. We do not propose to shut our eyes to the fact that the Russian government proscribes persons for their opinions just like other governments.

"These disturbances by communists at meetings where the soviet government is criticised are not new. Communists do not believe in free speech, except for themselves."

LAW MAKERS PROTECT BEES

Albany, N. Y., March 21.—The state legislature refused to pass the federal child labor amendment, but it has passed an act to prevent disease among bees.

WAITRESSES TO UNITE

Montreal, Quebec, March 21.—Organized labor is assisting waitresses in forming a trade union. These workers are paid $7 a week.

The law provides for one day's rest in seven, but because the girls are unorganized restaurant managers pay no attention to this humane legislation.

UNCLE SAM WANTS PAY FOR LAND HOLDINGS

Washington, March 21.—A joint committee of the house and senate have agreed to demand that the Northern Pacific railroad explain why it has failed to recompense the government for millions of acres of land it has wrongfully taken.

The controversy dates back to the time when railroads secured huge land grants in exchange for hoped-for aid in railroad construction. The Northern Pacific received more than 36,136,000 acres of land in this way, while the construction of the road cost only $70,000,000.

It is claimed that the road failed to build 1,500 miles of its line within the stipulated time, thereby forfeiting the granted land. It is charged by the government that at least 3,000,000 acres of forest land are involved. It is also claimed that the road exchanged these and was permitted to pick out thousands of acres of the best land. This was done in Washington, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Washington. The road, it is claimed, has realized $50,000,000 on land in the state of Washington it was not entitled to, and that 500,000 acres conflict with another grant.

In another case, it is claimed, the road was given 640,000 acres at one time, and 600,000 at another time. In both of these cases the transfer was illegal.

LAUNDRY WORKERS ADVANCE

Detroit, Mich., March 21.—The Detroit laundry owners' association has signed a union shop agreement with its laundry workers. No female employe shall receive less than $15 a week, and shall be paid time and one-half for overtime. Disputes shall be adjusted by arbitration, and the union reserves the right to refuse to handle "struck" work. The agreement is the result of a vigorous organizing campaign by these workers.

WANT FREE TEXT BOOKS

Charleston, W. Va., March 21.—Organized labor in this state is urging the legislature to pass a free text book bill.

FLORIDA WHIPPING BOSS IS CHARGED WITH MURDER

Cross City, Fla., March 21.—First degree murder charges have been filed by a Dixie county grand jury against Thomas W. Higginbotham and several others in the death of Lewis Barker, convict, October 19, 1924.

The indictment alleges that the accused first beat, brutally and otherwise mistreated Barker and then shot him to death.

Higginbotham was the whipping boss at the Putnam lumber company convict camp, when Martin Tabert of Tampa, Florida, was murdered for a minor offense and sentenced to this camp. He died from beatings and Higginbotham was convicted of second degree murder. He has been at liberty under bonds awaiting a second trial.

RETIREMENT BILL FAILS

Washington, March 21.—The retirement bill, that would increase annuities of federal employes, was caught in the house legislative jam in the closing hours of the last congress and failed to pass. The bill had passed the senate, and its failure in the house was a disappointment to federal employes, who were confident of its passage.

Congressman Longworth, speaker of the house, has declared in a public statement that this legislation will be favored by the majority party when congress convenes next December.

FOR VOTE ON CHILD LABOR

Albany, N. Y., March 21.—The state senate has referred the federal child labor amendment to a popular referendum at the next election. The vote was 30 to 6. Organized labor protested against this action, and insisted that the lawmakers uphold their pre-election pledges. The various political parties favored the amendment.

KANSAS BARS JAPANESE

Tokepa, Kan., March 21.—The state legislature has passed a Japanese exclusion bill. It prohibits the orientals from owning or leasing land in this state.

WORKERS' EDUCATION WILL BE DISCUSSED

New York, March 21.—The workers' education bureau has issued a call for its fourth annual conference, to be held at the Benjamin Franklin hotel, Chestnut street, Philadelphia, starting Friday morning, April 3.

The bureau is a clearing house of information on workers' education. It was established in 1921 by trade unionists and teachers and has been indorsed by the American Federation of Labor.

The purpose of the bureau is declared to be to collect and disseminate information relative to the efforts education conducted by any part of organized labor, and to co-ordinate and assist in every possible way such educational work now carried on by the organized workers, and to stimulate the creation of additional enterprises in labor education in the United States."

Organization membership in the bureau is open to workers' educational movements, labor unions, labor newspapers to student associations; to labor unions, both national and local, and to co-operative associations. All these organizations are entitled to representation in the national convention of the bureau and to equal privileges of organization membership.

The bureau has developed educational services which it places at the disposal of workers at a nominal service charge, and assists local groups in the organization of study classes.

The annual membership dues is one-half per cent per member per year for national and international unions; $10 per year for state federations; $10 for central bodies and district councils, and $1 for local unions.

Spencer Miller, jr., is secretary of the bureau. The headquarters are at 476 West 24th street, New York city.

COSSACKS OPPOSED

Chicago, March 21.—Organized labor ridicules the claim that state police can patrol and guard the highways of Illinois. The unionists know that this state has 100,000 miles of highways, and that the 455 men the cossack bill calls for would have to cover at least 1,000 miles every 12-hour shift if they worked eight hours. This estimate makes allowance for a maximum force of 400 privates on active duty, while the others would do barracks duty, be on sick leave, or engaged in the duties of officers.

The workers know the purpose of the cossack system is to overthrow the local police power of communities and substitute the old European theory of policing.

CAN'T RECEIVE VISITORS

Mammoth, W. Va., Mar. 21.—Strike-breaking miners who rent company houses may not allow relatives or friend spend the night with them. The coal barons have this clause in the contract to defeat any "agitator" talking trade unionism to their free and independent employes.

Strikers who are evicted from these company houses and have lived in tents all winter. Out of 926 members in local union No. 404 there have been but five desertions.

AUTO DEATHS INCREASE

Washington, March 21.—Deaths from automobile accidents increased in 1924, the rate being 16 per 100,000 as compared with 15.4 in 1923, according to the United States public health service.

Automobile fatalities still head the list of accidental deaths, occurring four times as many deaths as railroad accidents, and more than twice as many as result from accidental falls or accidental drownings.

OUTLAWING OF STRIKES IS ATTACKED

Indianapolis, March 21.—Coal owners and coal trade journals are continually scraping the bottom of public opinion against a wage agreement which they signed with the United Mine Workers at Jacksonville last year.

Part of this propaganda is to create the impression that the government secretly encouraged the agreement, that Secretary of Commerce Hoover has held a conference with John L. Lewis and has induced him to organize miners, on how the agreement can be abrogated. This story has been given wide publication, but is untrue, although there is no semblance of truth in it.

"No such conference was ever held," declares the United Mine Workers' Journal. "The story was manufactured out of whole cloth, without a single word to sustain it. President Lewis has not held any such conference with Secretary Hoover nor anyone else. Nor is he going to hold any conference with anyone that has for its purpose the modification or abrogation of the Jacksonville agreement. On the date the story says President Lewis held his conference with Secretary Hoover, President Lewis was at international headquarters at Indianapolis, and during that day he went to his home in Springfield, Illinois. We do not know where Secretary Hoover was on that day, but we do know that he did not see President Lewis."

The propagandists also claim that the Jacksonville agreement is a "wartime scale." These rates were fixed by 1920 by President Wilson's bituminous coal commission, following the general strike of 1919. The commission kept its decisions more than a year after the world war. In 1922 the coal owners renewed their attempt to cut wages, and another general strike followed. This resulted in an acceptance of the commission's award until April 1 of this year, when it was renewed for three years at Jacksonville, Fla. Since then coal owners have been engaged in a propaganda to annul this contract.

The union miners point to the very fact of every unbiased student of the industry that the causes for present mine conditions are economic and deep-seated. Wage reductions in unionized fields would be quickly met by anti-union coal owners lowering their present low rates, and the alleged remedy for the conditions is declared to be a general lowering of workers' living standards without the sale of an additional ton of coal in a market that is now glutted by overproduction and high unemployment.

In support of the union's position, these workers refer to the following statement by the Fairmont West Virginian, published in the center of the non-union coal fields of that state:

"The fact that the profit in the coal business is more than a question of wages is demonstrated by the fact that the non-union fields of southern West Virginia have been breaking records in the production of coal, yet, with a few exceptions, the coal operators are all losing money. Some of them are going into bankruptcy, and others are nearing that condition. The tremendous production of these fields is in itself more of a problem for them than many of the coal companies than any one would think. This is due to the fact that in their efforts to secure orders the operators are cutting their prices to a point so low that there is no profit left. In fact, some of them have gone so far as to ship hundreds of cars of coal to various distributing centers without having any orders for them, leaving their chances on selling the coal upon its arrival. At one time there were as many as 1,500 cars in the railroad yards in and about Chicago which had not been sold, and some of these had to be sold for the accumulated freight charges.

"As long as such methods of salesmanship are practiced in the coal business by the operators, there can be no hope of profit. Until such a time as they get together, either by merging of the various companies or a pooling of their tonnage and co-operative selling plan so as to reduce production to a point somewhere near consumption, and thus stabilize prices, there can be no hope of general or permanent prosperity in the business."

In commenting on this statement the United Mine Workers' Journal says: "If that isn't the truth with its hat off and its whiskers removed, we don't know it!

"The trouble with the coal industry in West Virginia is more than a question of wages as based on the Jacksonville agreement. It is simply a plain case of conspiracy to knock the United Mine Workers groggy and then put it out of business. This unholy thing has been brought about by the anti-union operators of West Virginia and some other coal districts."

Organized Miners Won't Join Cut-throat Wage Competition